A Copy of the

Kings Maieſties Letters Pattents
for the rating and aſſeſſing the Prices of
Horſemeat for Innes and Hoſteries
thorowout the Kingdome.

AT LONDON
Printed by *Iohn Beale*, and are to
be ſold by *Richard Hawkins* in Chancery lane.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

A Copy of the

Kings Maieſties Letters Pattents for the rating and aſſeſſing the Prices of Horſemeat for Innes and Hoſteries *thorowout the Kingdome.*

IAMES by the Grace of GOD, KING of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To Our truſty and Welbeloued Sir Henry Mountague Knight, Chiefe

Iustice of the Pleas before Us to be holden assigned: And to the Chiefe Iustice of the said Pleas for the time being, and to all other Our Iustices of Assise, now and for the time being, and to al other Our louing Subiects whom these presents shal or may concerne, greeting.

Whereas We haue by Our Letters Patents bearing date at VVestminster the third day of March, in the fourteenth yeere of our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the fiftieth, for the considerations therin mentioned: Assigned and appointed Sir Gyles Mompesson of Bathe-hampton in the County of VViltes, Knight, Gyles Bridges of VVilton, in the County of Hereford, Esquire, and Iames Thurbarne of Grayes Inne in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, Our Commissioners, giuing them or any two of them, whereof the said Sir Gyles Mompesson to bee one,

one, full power and authority to take a view and Survey of the Innes of this Our Kingdome, and therein amongst other things, to informe themselues of the due keeping of the assize & price of Horse-meat, by Inneholders & Hostlers of this Realme, and therein from time to time to bee ayding and assisting to the Chiefe Justice of Our Bench, and to Our Justices of Assise, for the better obseruing of Our true intent and meaning therein expressed. And further to treate with such persons as desire to keepe and continue their Innes, or to haue any Inne erected for the keeping, continuance and erecting of Innes or Hostries. And to make such Licence in that behalfe to such persons as in Our said Letters Patents is declared.

In euery of which Licenses we directed by Our said Letters Patents,

tents, that there should amongst other things bee contained a Prouiso, that the partie so to bee Licensed and his assignes, should keepe the Assize of Bread and Ale, and measure according to the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, and further obserue the prices of Horse-meate set downe, or from time to time to bee set downe by Our Justices of Assise in their seuerall Circuits, or by the Chiefe Justice of Our Bench, in places where Our Justices of Assise do not come, as by Our said Letters Patents of Commission more fully may appeare.

By the which Prouiso wee intended as well the generall benefit of Our Subiects, by redressing the excessiue prices and exactions vnlawfully encroached on them by Inne-holders and Hostlers, as also the reliefe of Inne-holders and Hostlers themselues, by allowing

ing them a more conuenient gaine, then by certaine ancient and almost absolute statutes made in the reigns of Our most Noble Predecessours King Richard the second, and King Henry the fourth, is prescribed vnto them. Which Statutes although they remaine as yet in force, yet considering the times wherein they were inacted, and the alteration of prises incident to the Succession of so many ages, besides the difference of monies then and now current within this Our Kingdome, haue by degrees so farre out-worne that originall equity and proportion vppon which they were first grounded, as that at this day they cannot be obserued, without the extreame preiudice and almost vtter vndoing of Hostlers, who notwithstanding are by the breach therof continually subiect to no lesse mischiefe by popular informations. But

now finding vppon further aduice, that these Our charitable intentions cannot haue so good effect as We expected, for that you Our said Justices haue neither by the said Letters Patents, nor otherwise by the Lawes of of this Our Realme, without Our especial warant as We are informed, sufficiēt power or authority to assesse or limite any prises, accordingly as is conditioned with such as take any Licences for keeping of Innes, by vertue of our said Letters Patents.

Wee therefore willing to giue Our Royall assistance in a case of so generall importance, and reposing especiall trust and confidence in your fidelities, wisdoms and prouident circumspections, doe hereby for Us, Our heires and Successours, giue full power and authoritie vnto you Our said Justices of Assise, respectiuely within your seuerall circuites, and to

all

all other the Iustices of Assise, of Us, Our Heires and Successours, now and for the time being.

And Wee do also hereby for Us, Our Heires and Successors, Will and command you and euery of you respectiuely, as aforesaid, from henceforth vntil Our pleasure be further known to the contrary, at euery generall Assises to bee holden for each Countie within your seuerall Diuisions, in the presence, and by & With the assistance of any foure Iustices of the Peace of the same County, or more, from whom you may receiue fit information in that behalfe, together With the assistance of Our said Commissioners or any of them, if they or any of them shall bee there present, by order in Writing vnder your hands, to assesse, limit, rate, and appoint such reasonable prises for Horse-meate to bee obserued by all Inne-holders and

Ostlers within your said seuerall circuits, so licensed or to be licensed, as aforesaid.

And likewise from time to time at euery of the said generall Assises in the presence, & with the like assistance of any foure or more Justices of the Peace, & of our said Commissioners, as aforesaid by any other order or orders in Writing vnder your hands, to correct, renew, alter & amend the said prises, as in your discretions shall seeme fit and conuenient, hauing due respect vnto the time, and the vsuall Rates of the adioyning Markets, and such other considerable circumstances as shall be requisite in a busines of that nature.

Further Willing and commanding you and euery of you hereby, within twentie dayes after the end of your seuerall Circuits, to returne and certifie in Writing vnder your hands all

and

and singuler the said Orders, Rates, and Assessements, together with the names of such Justices of the Peace as were present at the rating and assessing thereof, vnto the Office of the Receiuer of the Fines, Rents, and Profits for Licences of Inne-keepers, erected and established by Our said Letters Patents, to the end that the same may bee there registred and entred in the said Office.

And Wee doe further hereby for Us, Our Heires and Successours, charge and command all and singuler Justices of the Peace of euery Countie at large within this Our Kingdome, now, and for the time being respectiuely, with their best meanes and endeauours to be ayding and assisting to Our said Justices of Assise, for the rating and assessing of the prises aforesaid. And touching all exempt Cities, Counties, Townes Cor-

porate, Liberties, and other places priuiledged within this Realme, where Our said Justices of Assise do not resort. We do hereby for Us, Our Heires & Successors, giue full power and authoritie vnto you Our said Chiefe Justice of Our said Pleas, and to all other the Chiefe Justices of the said Pleas of Us, Our Heires and Successours for the time being, and doe also hereby for Us, Our Heires and Successors, charge and command you and euery of you, twice in euery yeere, that is to say, in the Termes of Easter and Saint Michael the Arch-angell yearely, in the presence, and by and with the assistance of the said Commissioners, or any two of them, whereof the said Sir Gyles Mompesson to be one, by order in writing vnder your hand, to assesse, limite, rate and appoint such reasonable prises for Horse-meate to be obser-

ued

ued by al Inne-holders and Hostlers licensed or to be licensed as aforesaid, within any of the said exempted or priuiledged places: and likewise from time to time yeerly in the said Terms by any other order or orders in Writing vnder your hand, to correct alter, renew and amend the said rates and prises according to your best discretion: and in the same Termes likewise to returne & certifie your said orders, rates and prises into Our said Office of Receiuor to bee there registred and entred, as aforesaid, Willing and commanding hereby Our said Receiuor now, and for the time being, to make and giue vnder his hand true Copies of all and euery the Orders, Rates, and Assessements aforesaid, as well such as shall bee made for the Counties at large, as for the said exempt or priuiledged places to all persons requiring the same, taking not aboue

twelue

twelue pence for any one Coppie.

And for the further Indemnity of all such Inne-holders or Hostlers either in the Counties at large, or other the places exempted, as aforesaid, as now are or shall hereafter be licensed to erect, keepe or continue any Inne or Hostery, according to the tenor of Our former recited Letters Pattents, We doe hereby of Our especial Grace, certain knowledge, and meere motion, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, giue full power and authority to al and euery the said Inne-holders or Hostlers so licensed, or to be licensed as aforesaid, and to no other, to Receiue and take from time to time, such Rates and prises for Horse-meate, as by the said Justices of Assise, or Chief Justice aforesaid, respectiuely shall be so limitted, ordered, assessed, and certified vnto the said Office, as aforesaid, the said seuerall Acts of Parliaments:

ments: or any other Law, Statute, Proclamation, Ordinance, Vsage or Custome Whatsoeuer to the contrary thereof in any Wise notwithstanding. And to the end that Our care herein, chiefly tending to the generall Welfare and profit of Our louing Subiects, bee not hereafter abused by the misapplying of Our Grace and Fauour in the granting of any such Licenses vnto people of base quality and loose conuersation.

And for as much as it is impossible that the said Sir Gyles Mompesson, Gyles Bridges, and Iames Thurbarne, Our Commissioners appointed by the said Letters Pattents, should of themselues bee able to take sufficient notice what persons throughout the Whole Realme are vnfit to be licensed to erect, keep, or continue any Inne or Hostry as aforesaid: the rather for that men of ill condition oftentimes

procure fauourable Certificats, from persons of good credite in their behalfe.

Wee therefore for the better Assistance and Supply of Our said Commissioners herein, doe hereby for Us, Our Heires and Successors, Wil and command all and singuler Clerkes of the Peace, now and for the time being of euery County at large within this Our Realme of England, where Our said Justices of Assise do vsually come. And all & singuler Maiors, Bayliffes, Constables, and other head Officers, now and for the time being of the said exempted Cities, Counties, Townes Corporate, Liberties, and places priuiledged, as aforesaid, Respectiuely to make true Returnes and Certificats in Writing vnder their hands, vnto our said Office of Receiuor twice in the yeare, that is to say, in the Termes of Easter,

and

and Saint Michael the Arch-angell, of the names, qualities and places of aboade of all such persons as before that time haue been, or hereafter shal be in publike Sessions holden for any County at large, or by publike order made in any of the said exempted or priuiledged places respectiuely for their euill behauiour, or other personall insufficiency, disallowed or prohibited to keepe any Alehouse or Victualing-house, within the Precincts of their seuerall Iurisdictions, together with the true causes wherefore they were so disallowed, To the end that the said Certificates may be kept and registred in the said Office: and that Our said Commissioners thereby taking notice of all such prohibited, and insufficient persons, may the more warily proceed in granting the said Licenses.

Lastly, Our will and pleasure is,

and Wee doe hereby for Us, Our Heires and Successours, grant that these Presents, and the Inrolement thereof, shall be firme, good, auaileable, and effectual in the Law to all intents, constructions and purposes, according to our meaning herein expressed: any Law, Statute, Acte, Ordinance, or Prouision to the contrarie thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

In Witnesse Whereof, we haue caused these Our Letters to bee made Patents. Witnesse Our Selfe at Westminster the fourth day of Nouember, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

Per ipsum Regem.

I
R